produced by CIL in Assam during the last three years is as under:

1995-96	8.21 lakh tonnes
1996-97	7.52 lakh tonnes
1997-98	6.87 lakh tonnes

(b) Lack of demand, inadequates rail infrastructure facility, difficult geo-mining, conditions unviable economics of mining have affected enhanced production in North Eastern Coalfields. However, efforts will be made to improve the same in future depending on the leverage allowed by the market forces.

(c) Cement, Paper, tea gardens, power, fertilizer, Steel and Brick Kilns are the main consumers of NEC coal.

Many consumers such as SAIL, Fertilizers and Power Plant have stopped/curtailed offtake of coal from NEC either because of higher landed cost or because of availability of cheaper coal from other sources.

Increasing import duty on Coal

791. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal Industry is facing a serious threat from cheaper imported coal from South Africa and Indonesia;

(b) whether Government are contemplating increasing the import duty to enable Coal India Ltd. (CIL) to maintain its market; and

(c) if so, whether the move is designed to protect and encourage inefficiency in the PSU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the recently presented Budget the basic duty on coking coal has been retained at 5% whereas the basic duty on non-coking coal has been increased from 10% to 15%. For both varieties of coal a surcharge of 10% has been levied.

(c) Domestic coal faces a much higher incidence of royalty and freight charges as compared to imported coal. The measures, therefore, is to rectify this imbalance. While the pithead price of coal is one of the cheapest in the World, the landed price is high because of the freight and other levies.

Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. funds for Golf Club

792. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanadi Coalfields Limited has contributed funds for development of Golf Club in the colliery area;

(b) if so, the total amount spent by the company for the purpose;

(c) whether trade unions in the Joint Bipartite Committee in Coal Industry have objected to the expenditure of this nature; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) A sum of Rs. 3.2 lakh has been sanctioned by Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. as contribution to the Brahmani Golf Club of Talcher for purchase of three Golf Sets and Kits.

(c) No objection has been raised by the Joint Bipartite Committee in Coal Industry at the level of Coal India Limited nor by Joint Consultative Committee at the level of Mahanadi Coalfilds Limited.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (c) above.

Down-trend in underground mining of coal

793. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of coal by underground mining has gone

down from 61.28 million tonnes in 1989 to 53.97 million tonnes in 1998;

(b) If so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. But it should be noted that underground mining is also given due consideration based on factors such as geology of the area, depth of coal deposit, demand of coal, grade of coal and viability of the project. Since nationalisation as many as 100 underground mining projects have been completed which have been replaced some of the exhausting reserves of the on- going mines. 88 underground on-going projects are in operation in Coal India Limited. These 88 on-going projects will yield 36 million tonnes capacity addition on completion. On successful implementation of these projects, Coal India Limited will be able to increase underground coal production from present level of 54 million tonnes to 68 million tonnes by the terminal year of IX Plan 2001-02. In Singareni Collieries Company Limited also, 18 new underground projects were sanctioned during the last 10 years.

(c) Steps taken by Coal India Limited to improve the status of underground mining include mechanisation in Board and Pillar mining, working of Longwall faces in place of conventional manual mining, blasting gallery techniques and introduction of modern and appropriate technologies on 'Risk-Gain' sharing basis through global tendering.

मध्य प्रदेश को कोयले पर रायल्टी

794. **श्री लक्खी राम अग्रवाल:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पिछले चार वर्षों के दौरान केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा कोयला खनन के लिए मध्य प्रदेश सरकार को प्रतिवर्ष कितनी रायल्टी राशि दी गई;

(ख) क्या मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार से कोयला खनन पर रायल्टी राशि बढ़ाने का अनुरोध किया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में केन्द्रीय सरकार ने क्या निर्णय लिया है?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलीप राय): (क) पिछले चार वर्षों के दौरान कोयला खनन के लिए कोल इंडिया लि० की अनुषंगी कोयला कंपनियों द्वारा मध्य प्रदेश सरकार को दी जाने वाली रायल्टी की राशि का वर्षवार ब्यौरा नीचे दर्शाया गया है;

(ख) और (ग) मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने कोककर कोयले की आधार कीमतों के 25% तक तथा डी, ई, एफ और जी ग्रेड के अकोककर कोयले की आधार कीमतों के 25% तक कोयले की रायल्टी दर में संशोधन करने के लिए अभिवेदन दिया है। हाल के वर्षों में आयातित कोयले की खपत में काफी वृद्धि हुई है। यद्यपि आयातित कोयले की लागत की तुलना में भारतीय कोयले की उत्पादन लागत कम है तथापि उच्च भाड़ा प्रभार एवं रायल्टी लेवी भारतीय कोयले की देश में प्रतिस्पर्द्धात्मक को समाप्त कर रहा है। इस परिप्रेक्ष्य में रायल्टी की दरों में संशोधन किए जाने का निर्णय लिया जाएगा।

कोयले का कम उत्पादन

795. **श्रीमती मालती शर्मा:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गत दो वर्षों के दौरान देश में कोयले का उत्पादन लक्ष्य से कम रहा;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) उत्पादन पर हुए कुल व्यय की तुलना में कितना राजस्व अर्जित किया गया?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलीप राय): (क) और (ख) वर्ष 1996-97 और 1997-98 के दौरान कोल इंडिया लि० (कोई०लि०) के लक्ष्य एवं वास्तविक उत्पादन का ब्यौरा नीचे दर्शाया गया है:—

(मिलियन टन में)
आंकड़े अनंतिम

वर्ष	लक्ष्य	वास्तविक
1996-97	252.00	250.62
1997-98	260.00	260.55